

# News and Views of Interest to the Horse World

## 'SUN' AND 'HERALD' LEADERS IN SPORT

Reporting of Current Events by Newspapers Originated With Great Dailies.

### HORSE ALWAYS FEATURED

Early Files of These Papers the Sources of History of Trotting and Racing.

By GURNEY C. GEE.

The union of THE SUN and the New York Herald is a noteworthy event in the history of reporting journalism. For eighty-five years these two newspapers have been pioneers and leaders in this special field, which has come to be recognized as one of the important features of every modern daily made for readers of intelligence and spirit. It might be said that the reporting of current sporting events, and particularly those of the racetrack, the road and the prize ring, originated in these oldest of metropolitan morning newspapers.

But it was not until the advent of Jo Elliott on the Herald and Toppy McGuire on THE SUN that the men about town began to find the history of yesterday in trotting, racing, prize fighting and cock fighting regularly served up to them on the breakfast table done to a turn by men who knew the game.

Elliott's connection with the Herald began with the paper in 1838. Its leadership in horse news and horse advertising began at the same time and has continued for eighty-five years, the Herald only last November having published on Sunday the largest amount of such advertising ever printed in any issue of any daily newspaper.

The Herald was perhaps the first daily paper in which sporting news rose to the dignity of a department, and Elliott thus became the pioneer sporting editor of American daily journalism. Right here it is interesting to note that in its long and brilliant history the paper has had but two sporting editors. When Elliott grew old and retired on a pension from Mr. Bennett, about thirty-two years ago, F. A. Steiner, an understudy, personally selected by the owner of the Herald from the staff of the Post, Field and Farm, took the veteran place and has held it to this day.

#### Authority on Racing.

Elliott reported all the great trotting matches, running races and prize fights of early days and his stories of these events, preserved in the old files of the Herald are largely the sources of the history of these events. He was a recognized authority on horse racing and also officiated in the judges' stand at the Beacon, Union, Fashion and Centreville tracks, or in trotting matches for money or wine on Third Avenue or the Bloomingdale road, now known as Broadway.

He helped to frame the rules of racing and trotting, and in 1871 he published in the Herald the first list of trotting horses having public records of 2:30 or better, which contained the germ of the principle on which John H. Wallace afterward built up the American Trotting Register and Wallace's Year Book of Trotting and Racing.

Toppy McGuire was almost as well known as Elliott was at the road houses and the racetracks, and probably a good deal better known among the votaries of betting and bookies, which were his favorite sports. In his later years and until about thirty-five years ago this veteran chronicler of the mains and the mills kept a place, as the horsemen used to say, the east side of St. Nicholas avenue, not far from 135th street. It was a cozy, hospitable roadside cottage, where the men who wore buff driving coats and smoked strong cigars would test their panting trotters under the shade while they sought liquid refreshment with old cronies at the crowded bar. McGuire was a great friend of John Morrissey, the great comedian, and was with him on the night of his attack with Bill Poole at Stanwix Hall, where the latter was murdered the same night by Law Baker.

#### "Sun" Fostered Trotting.

In the days of Charles A. Dana's regime THE SUN became the best known newspaper in the United States for its news of trotting, racing and road. Paul Dana, son of the editor, was himself a driver in the palmy period of the mallein brigade. He bred trotters in a modest way and was so interested in the development of the typical American horse that he made THE SUN a paper which horsemen literally stood in the to buy when it was a week old at the Palace Hotel in San Francisco and at other horse racing resorts all over the country.

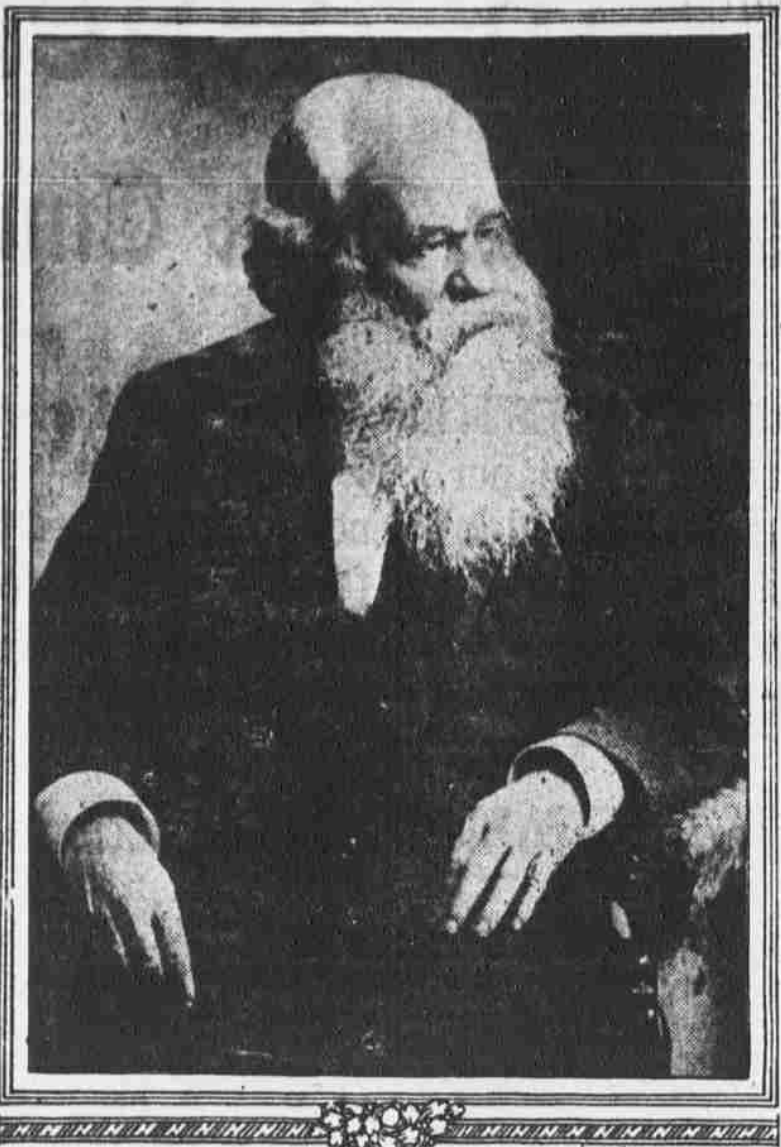
C. J. Fitzgerald, afterward starter on the metropolitan race tracks and now editor of Daily Racing Form, was then horse editor of THE SUN, and he could write with equal facility and knowledge about runners and trotters.

C. A. McGuire, later manager of the great trotting meetings at Brighton Beach and now in charge of work on the Grand Circuit for this State, in those days with Robert W. Woolley, now of the Interstate Commerce Commission, or the writer, who was doing the local work occasionally relieving him, Old Fleetwood the Parkway track, at Gravesend and Seventh Avenue were yet in full bloom a quarter of a century ago, and THE SUN covered them all as in other daily newspaper had ever done.

The Herald after Elliott's retirement was not so strong on trotting, but at this time and afterward was in a class by itself for the news and gossip of such fashionable sports as coaching, polo, horse shows, fox hunting and amateur steeplechasing, in all of which Mr. Bennett was personally interested, and some of which he had helped to introduce in America.

That the historic Herald has retained its wonderful following among horse fanciers undiminished and unimpaired has demonstrated only last Thursday evening, when fully one thousand men and women attended the sale of James Watson Webb's hunters and breeding stock at Durland's Riding Academy, which was advertised in no other newspaper except the Herald. It was a remarkable crowd for the dead of winter. Mr. Durland said he had not seen so many persons of wealth and prominence at a horse sale in ten years, while George A. Bain, the veteran auctioneer, who sells most of the high priced horses disposed of under the hammer in America, declared the prices were the best he ever saw for the same class of stock. Mr. Webb himself said they were far beyond his expectations, some of the horses and most of the colts having brought almost twice as much as he had counted on.

## Pioneer Sporting Editor



JO ELLIOTT

## \$339,666 for Charity From the Horse Shows

Many Associations Contributed Their Entire Profits to Aid Welfare Work During the Great War—Timely Gossip.

### Horse Shows in 1920.

Philadelphia, N. C.	April 6
Brooklyn, N. Y.	April 21-24
New York (Durland's), N. Y.	April 27-29
Philadelphia (indoor), Pa.	May 6-8
Wynnewood (pony show), Pa.	May 15
Devon, Pa.	May 26-31
West Point, N. Y.	June 7-8
White Plains, N. Y.	June 12-14
Fall, N. Y.	June 15-17
Long Branch, N. J.	July 17
Stamford, Conn.	August 5-6
White Sulphur, W. Va.	August 12-14
Newport, R. I.	September 1-3
Worcester, Mass.	September 3-7
Rochester, N. Y.	September 5-11
Wilmington, Del.	September 6-11
Syracuse, N. Y.	September 12-17
Locust Valley, N. Y.	September 20
Springfield, Mass.	September 20-25
Minneapolis, N. Y.	September 22-24
Bryn Mawr, Pa.	September 29-October 2
Morristown, N. J.	September 23-25
Readville, Mass.	September 30-October 2
Brooklyn, Mass.	October 5-8
Chicago (U. S. yards), Ill.	October 2-9
Monmouth, N. J. (colt show)	October 16

With dates claimed in January for twenty-six horse shows to be held next season nothing but a shortage of horses seems to stand in the way of a wonderfully successful year, according to the opinion of everybody who attended the annual meeting of the Association of American Horse Shows on Tuesday at the Baltimore. A dozen or more shows, including such important ones as the National, will shortly be added to the schedule, which includes only those to be held by members of the A. A. H. S. and does not take into account the many minor exhibitions and others of importance in the West and South which are not yet affiliated with the league.

Reports from all quarters at the meeting last week were to the effect that never before had public interest been so strong as disclosed by the gate receipts in 1919, some of the shows having almost doubled their revenue from this source. The delegates were equally unanimous, however, in reporting a scarcity of horses, particularly harness horses.

The uncommercial character of horse shows was strikingly brought out when Lieut. J. Macy Willets, the secretary, read the report of the directors showing that members of the association had raised \$121,975 for charity through the medium of their exhibitions last season, and that in the last three years these benefits had yielded \$339,666 for the Red Cross, the Salvation Army and kindred charities.

In an era of commercialized sports it is refreshing and gratifying to find one in which practically nobody expects to make a profit and in which many expend a small fortune each year for pure love of the sport. It is the boast of the horse show men and women that no other sport can be named in which so many associations and clubs contributed so large a part of their receipts to charity during the war and no one has challenged the statement.

#### Suggests Uniform Rules.

At the meeting last Tuesday Louis K. Liggett, one of the leading exhibitors of last season, suggested that the A. A. H. S. make uniform rules for its members as to charges for stabling, feed, service and entries, so that exhibitors might receive the same treatment everywhere. Mr. Liggett also advocated a rule requiring members to publish the names of their judges when sending out their prize lists and a rule requiring exhibitors when so notified of the names of the judges before making entries to show every horse entered on pain of fine or suspension. He suggested also that exhibitors as a body be consulted in the making of rules and regulations for horse shows. These matters were referred to the directors of the A. A. H. S., who held a meeting immediately after the meeting of the members but took no action.

Mr. Liggett's suggestions reflected the sentiments of many other exhibitors, big and little, who have been talking for some time about forming an association of exhibitors with a view to putting them in force. Although the A. A. H. S. is technically an association of managers

## HACKNEY TO TRY IN CAVALRY RACE

Lieut. J. Macy Willets Will Match English Breed Against All Comers Next October.

### JOCKEY CLUB LUKEWARM

Powers That Be Are Not Enthusiastic Over Contest Under Heavy Weights.

Directors of the American Hackney Horse Society the other day voted \$100 toward defraying the expenses of the cavalry endurance test next October, and one of them, Lieut. J. Macy Willets, declared his intention of trying to find one or more hackneys or half bred hackneys to start in the 300 mile race against the Arabians, Morgans, trotters, runners and horses of other breeds. William Carr, an old time handler of hackneys in the show ring will probably train for him.

Lieut. Willets is a breeder of hackney ponies and it is just possible that he will start one of his own rearing that is under 14.3 hands to test the ability of the breed to carry heavy weight and go long distances under saddle. But he said yesterday he would prefer a half bred horse by a hackney sire, because the purpose of the test is to determine what breed will be the best sire of cavalry horses when mated with the common run of mares.

Racing and hunting men, who make up so large a part of the Remount Association and sometimes seem to control the policy of the War Department or of the army in such matters, are almost unanimous in advocating thoroughbred race horses as sires of cavalry mounts. The endurance test has, however, brought forward new claimants in the Arabians, the Morgans, the trotters and the hackneys, and it looks as if the high mottled racer would have to come out and prove his claim or else lose his place.

Capt. Joseph E. Davis, an officer of the Remount Association, an experienced steeplechase rider and formerly master of the Meadow Brook fox hounds, is an advocate of the Percheron, the Suffolk or some other active type of draft stallion as a sire of army horses. He would mate them with mares of the thoroughbred type on the theory that resulting foals would grow up to have more of the habits and action of their thoroughbred dams than if they were running in pasture beside a Percheron or other heavy mare in their colthood.

Advocates of the thoroughbred sire mated with common mares will have a large selection of horses to choose from if the Jockey Club or any of its members can be induced to come into the cavalry race from Fort Ethan Allen to Camp Devens. Ever since 1904 the breeding bureau of the Jockey Club has been fostering the production of horses representing this cross in the State of New York by putting out thoroughbred stallions for the free use of breeders and farmers.

The chairman of the breeding bureau said recently that upward of 3,350 foals have been reported to the Jockey Club. Up to the present time the club and its officers have shown a singular lack of interest or enthusiasm concerning the long distance contest under cavalry conditions, but the partisans of the rival breeds of horses are acting as if they intended to "smoke out" the aristocratic racer this year.

breeding classes and six on draught horses. The list is likely to meet with a pretty warm reception in some quarters both for its omissions and for its inclusion of some horses which might drive away more exhibitors than they would attract. But it contains plenty of good names in almost every division. Besides, there is nothing in the rules of the association requiring any member to adhere to this list in selecting judges for its shows.

Mrs. George A. Anderson of the Brooklyn Riding and Driving Club has purchased of Godfrey Brown a gray saddle horse by Rex Montrose, to mate the promising four-year-old filly Thistle Down, of the same color, bred by Mrs. Anderson's father, Charles J. Hubbs, and ridden by her at the last National Horse Show, where she won her way to the championship class the first time shown. Mrs. Anderson expects to exhibit her new horse with Thistle Down in the "Mrs. Anderson" class at the Brooklyn Horse Show in April.

## SPRING AUCTION SALES

THE DURLAND COMPANY, having a number of high class dispersal sales booked for the near future, would be pleased to hear from those who would like to offer their horses. Special catalogues and dates can be arranged. These sales are the best in the country for the disposal of high class Saddle, Harness and Combination Horses, Hunters, Polo Ponies, etc.

Gentlemen who contemplate selling their stock in New York will do well to correspond at once with Mr. William Durland, who will furnish all necessary information as to fixed dates and arrange other dates when required.

The market for Saddle Horses and Hunters has never been better than at present, as was shown last week, when we sold twenty-two head, ranging from two to twenty-one years old, for \$17,810, an average of \$809.

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